

AMENDMENT TO DRAWINGS

Applicant has amended Drawing Figures 17A, 17B, and 17D that were originally provided on one Drawing Sheet, Page 24/24 of the original Specification, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121 (d) & 1.84. All Figures on said Drawing Sheet, amended and original, are provided on a "REPLACEMENT SHEET." The "REPLACEMENT SHEET" is attached at the end of this Response.

Applicant has not added new matter. Figures 17 A, B, & D have been amended to add additional reference numerals only to clarify the arrangement of parts.

REMARKS

(A) STATUS OF THE APPLICATION

(I) DISPOSITION OF CLAIMS

- (i) Claims 1-10 and 12-19 are pending in the application.
- (ii) Claims 1-10 and 12-19 are subject to 35 U.S.C. § 121 election requirement.

(II) APPLICANT'S ACTION

- (i) Applicant has elected species shown in Figures 1-12E.

(B) ELECTION REQUIREMENT UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 121—CLAIMS 1-10 & 12-19

(I) EXAMINER'S COMMENTS

In the Office Action, the Examiner requires that under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 121 the Applicant elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held allowable.

- I. Figures 1-12E
- II. Figure 13
- III. Figure 14
- IV. Figure 15
- V. Figure 16
- VI. Figures 17A-17E

(II) APPLICANT'S RESPONSE

Applicant hereby elects **the species shown in Figures 1-12E.**

Applicant also submits that all claims currently pending in the application read on the elected species shown in Figures 1-12E.

Applicant reserves the right to traverse a restriction requirement between the non-elected groups in this or a separate application.

Applicant points out that in Figures 12A-E, the side aperture 60 is an optional feature. Although this feature is not expressly included in the independent claims, it is neither expressly excluded.

Applicant also notes that Figures 17A-E represent a mere design variation of the features of the internal and external slider of the invention. Specifically, the following Figures generally correspond to one another:

4A	17A
4C	17B
5A	17C
5B	17D
5C	17E

Figures 17A through E really shown an alternate geometrical arrangement of the apertures, posts and deformable members of the external and internal sliders (namely, they show a square arrangement, while the earlier drawings show a circular arrangement).

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PATENT
GROUP ART UNIT 3754

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot and that a complete response has been made to the Requirement for Restriction/election mailed August 16, 2007.

Therefore, Applicant believes that the application stands in condition for allowance with withdrawal of all grounds of rejection. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.


If the Examiner has questions regarding the application or the contents of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), this response also includes a petition for a two-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action. Should there be a fee due which is not accounted for, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 501447.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2007

BY:


RAKESH H. MEHTA, ESQUIRE
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT
REGISTRATION No.: 50,224
PHONE: 302-984-6089
FAX: 302-658-1192